

therapy of resistant falciparum malaria are included. Discussion of such medical problems as cholera, dengue fever, and schistosomiasis is of renewed interest while recently recognized diseases as Kuru and Acanthamoeba infections are brought to the attention of the reader. Laboratory techniques are adequately described.

The utility of the book as a standard reference for tropical diseases both for the medical student and the practitioner is enhanced by the appendix attempting to enumerate diseases present in geographical areas of the world. Although the list is far from complete, presumably due to inadequacies of disease-reporting methods, it serves as a guide to the recognition of an illness which may have been contracted abroad and manifested only upon return to the United States.

\* \* \*

**CLINICAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY**—Volume 10, Number 1, March 1967—Hormones in Reproduction, edited by Robert B. Jaffe, M.D., and Female Urology, edited by Tiffany J. Williams, M.D. Published quarterly by Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row, Publishers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016, about 1200 pages per year. Subscription: \$18.00 per year.

This little volume will serve as a quick summary of current thinking in two disparate fields. As such it is not intended to, nor does it, fill the need for comprehensive research or practical management.

The first portion deals briefly with various aspects of hormones related to reproduction. At times it suffers from oversimplification not all of which can be ascribed to the brevity of the discussion. Concerning the interaction of sex steroids at end organs it is of interest that protein receptors for estradiol do not bind biologically active diethylstilbesterol or progesterone. Theories of hormone action are presented in a simplified manner with which readers with some background in the field might quibble. There is no mention of Bonner's work. Useful information concerning steroid levels is given. However the discussion concerning urinary assays and significance of estriol could have been expanded. Progesterone and estrogen metabolism by the placenta receives good coverage. The section entitled "non-steroidal estrogen antagonists" is concerned with a subject which has received intense attention in recent years. Induction of ovulation represents a major clinical breakthrough. The discussion does not emphasize the necessity for a potentially responsive ovary and the means to delineate this fact. Excellent consideration of the adrenal gland and hypothalamus are given. Immunoassay of human gonadotropins receives competent coverage. However this reviewer finds it difficult to reconcile a sensitive assay procedure with the fact that assayed polypeptides share similar antigenic binding sites. Considerable restraint in interpretation of immunologic data would seem warranted at present.

The last portion (approximately 1/3) of the book dealing with female urology is well organized although portions may be oversimplified and too general to be useful. This reviewer found the discussion of antibiotic therapy informative. There is an interesting discussion of interstitial cystitis, often a cause of intractable urgency incontinence. The section describing bladder care after operation reflects the current trend away from prophylactic catheterization. The discussion concerning urinary diversion reflects vast experience and dampened enthusiasm for the procedure. Ileal conduit is simply mentioned. A section pertaining to retroperitoneal fibrosis may not be particularly useful to gynecological surgeons.

STANLEY J. GROSS, M.D.

**DERMATOLOGIC ALLERGY: IMMUNOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, MANAGEMENT**—By Leo H. Crip, M.D., F.A.C.P., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Chief of Allergy, Montefiore Hospital; Director, Central Allergy Laboratory, Veterans Administration; Consultant, Medical Staff, Presbyterian-University and Magee Hospitals. With the collaboration of 15 contributors. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1967. 605 pages, \$17.00.

Recent years have seen an increasing need for a textbook in the field of cutaneous medicine which would present clearly and simply the rapidly accumulating knowledge in basic immunology and its allied specialties as it pertains to dermatology. This has been achieved to a great extent by Dr. Crip and an eminently qualified panel of contributors.

Most of the contents are devoted to the presentation of various facets of immunologic knowledge as it involves skin diseases and is particularly valuable to the student of dermatological allergy. This book represents the best attempt to present which summarizes current immunological data as it pertains to diseases of dermatological origin and from this standpoint it can be recommended as a valuable addition to one's library.

VICTOR D. NEWCOMER, M.D.

\* \* \*

**OSLER'S TEXTBOOK REVISITED**—Reprint of selected sections with commentaries—Edited by A. McGehee Harvey, Professor of Medicine and Chairman, Department of Medicine, and Victor A. McKusick, Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York (Division of Meredith Publishing Company), 1967. 361 pages, \$6.75 (Paperback).

Professors Harvey and McKusick of the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins visit the famous textbook of their distinguished predecessor, William Osler, by presenting selections from the seventh edition (1909) of *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*, the last edition to be written by the author without collaboration. To the 24 topics selected, some 17 commentaries have been appended, each written by some noted specialist. The commentaries purport to bring the reader up to date by means of a brief survey of progress since 1909, although the purpose of these sketches remains unclear. In addition, the editors provide a short introduction in which the circumstances of composition, collaborative authorship, influence, and organization of the text are discussed together with some tables on selected advances in medicine from 1875 (when Osler entered academic life) to 1892, and from 1892 (the date of the first edition) to 1909. An epilogue concludes with the observation that of all the sections visited "at the level of clinical and pathological description of the natural history of disease nothing substantial has been added since Osler's resumé of 1909. What has been added in our understanding is mainly in the realms of etiology, pathogenesis, and therapy."

There is no doubt that William Osler's *The Principles and Practice of Medicine* was for more than a generation the most influential textbook on the North American continent. Its influence extended not only to the majority of the teachers of the present generation of American physicians but is credited with a major role in directing philanthropy, notably that of John D. Rockefeller, towards the support of research and improvement of education in medicine and public health. Although translated into French, German, Spanish and Chinese, contrary to the statements of the editors of the present work, Osler's textbook never achieved the same popularity abroad. As Henry Sigerist, the distinguished medi-

cal historian at John Hopkins, wrote more than a generation ago when Osler's influence was very real, "The physicians of the European continent do not know much about him. The older ones have heard of him as a clinician. . . . To the younger men he is almost unknown." In the British Isles, Osler's textbook was not popular, and in Germany it was no rival to Ernst Strümpell's parallel book first published in 1883, which was likewise translated into a number of foreign languages. Consequently, Sigerist was compelled to observe that it was not as a discoverer or in his literary work that Osler cast a spell on posterity. "The secret of Osler's influence must be looked for elsewhere. It lies in his personality, in his inimitable qualities as a physician, a teacher, and a man." Sigerist concluded that the textbook belongs to the literary deposition of a great age in medicine which with

Strümpell's book "will one day be recognized as sources of important historical material."

The failure to recognize Sigerist's admonition has made the revisit to Osler's distinguished textbook so unsatisfactory and disappointing. A great opportunity has been lost in the failure to present the work in its true contemporary context or to watch progress unfold through the changing image reflected by a textbook which has had a run of more than half a century. But the disappointment is ameliorated with the recognition that this "paperback" selection may serve to place in the hands of students a convenient access to those values in clinical medicine which are too often forgotten in current teaching.

JOHN B. DEC. M. SAUNDERS, M.D.

